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Proclamation 5979 of May 15, 1989

Trauma Awareness Month, 1989

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Every American is a potential trauma victim. By any measure—whether we consider its economic costs or the unfathomable price paid in lost and broken lives—traumatic injury constitutes a major public health problem. Each year, more than 150,000 Americans lose their lives to traumatic injuries; many others are severely or permanently disabled by them. Traumatic injury is the leading cause of death of people under 40 years of age.

Deaths due to traumatic injury claim the hope and promise of more young lives than cancer and heart disease combined. The elderly, too, are at high risk from hip fracture and other types of injury. In addition to the personal tragedy to individuals, traumatic injuries constitute one of our Nation's most expensive public health problems.

Traumatic injury at any age is tragic and unnecessary. Most of these tragedies are preventable. We need to educate all Americans, beginning with the young people in our Nation's schools, about traumatic injuries and how they occur. We need to make our citizens aware of the ways to prevent dangerous situations that can lead to traumatic injury. All Americans should also learn about the actions that can be taken to reduce the severity of these injuries through improved emergency medical services, trauma care, and rehabilitation.

By combining the efforts of individual citizens, health care professionals, researchers, business and industry, voluntary agencies, and government officials, the toll of traumatic injury and subsequent losses can be reduced.

To enhance public awareness of traumatic injury, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 68, has designated the month of May 1989 to be "National Trauma Awareness Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1989 as "National Trauma Awareness Month." I urge the people of the United States, their government agencies, health care providers, and schools to take an active part in preventing traumatic injuries by learning more about the traumatic injury problem. I also urge all Americans to support private and public efforts to prevent traumatic injuries and provide high-quality treatment for those that do occur. We can do this by supporting research into new ways to prevent and treat traumatic injuries and by helping the victims of traumatic injuries to recover from the physical, emotional, and financial burdens they inflict.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 5980 of May 16, 1989

National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, 1989

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Americans are the most mobile people in the world, and we are understandably proud of our transportation system. It is one of our greatest achievements and most valued assets, conveying each of us and virtually every item of our commerce.

The steaming piston, the whirring turbine, and the spinning wheel of the high-speed train are familiar symbols of this indispensable support of our daily activities. New symbols join the list every year, such as the "pillar of fire" of the space shuttle or the promise of the magnetic levitation train. From covered wagons and the Erie Canal to jumbo jets and superhighways, the network of roads, air routes, and waterways that constitute America's transportation system has increased our productivity, spurred our economic growth, and logistically strengthened our national defense. Our transportation system provides the arteries we need to work with America's allies in ensuring our common security and enables us to deploy and supply our forces overseas.

With the growth of our transportation needs have come new demands and challenges, but the transportation industry has continued working to meet them, promoting the development of a more reliable, convenient, and efficient transportation system.

There has also been a growing awareness of the need for transportation safety. Americans are working together to eliminate the menace of drunk and drugged driving; communities are promoting education programs and more stringent laws designed to improve transportation safety; and judges are getting tougher when dealing with offenders. The Government and private sector are united in these efforts to reduce fatalities and accident rates to the lowest levels in history. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the men and women who dedicate themselves to saving lives and preventing injuries.

In recognition of the importance of transportation and of the millions of Americans who serve and supply our transportation needs, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957, has requested that the third Friday in May of each year be designated as "National Defense Transportation Day," and by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962, that the week in which that Friday falls be proclaimed "National Transportation Week."